

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On the cover page and at the top of page 2, please replace the title with the following title as amended:

1       ~~METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING VASCULAR OCCLUSIONS~~  
2       BLUNT MICRO-DISSECTION CATHETER

On the cover page, please replace the list of inventors with the following list as amended.

1       Inventors: Matthew R. Selmon M.D., Charles F. Milo, Robert L. Wynne, Suresh  
2       Pai, Kent Dell, ~~and Charles Gresl, Gerald Hansen, and E. Richard Hill III~~

On page 2, lines 3-4, replace the entire paragraph with the following paragraph as amended.

1       ~~The following~~ This patent application is a continuation of United States Patent  
2       Application Number 09/538,441 filed March 29, 2000, which is a divisional of United  
3       States Patent Application Number 09/149,874 filed September 8, 1998, now United  
4       States Patent Number 6,508,825, which is a continuation-in-part application of ~~Serial No.~~  
5       United States Patent Application Number 08/775,264 filed on February 28, 1997, now  
6       United States Patent Number 5,968,064.

On page 21, lines 1-2, delete the entire paragraph and replace with the following paragraphs as follows.

1       ~~Figs. 22A-24A are simplified side views of a various catheter shaft~~  
2       ~~configurations.~~

3       Figs. 22A-B show side and cross-sectional views of a catheter shaft, under an  
4       embodiment.

5       Figs. 23A-B show side and cross-sectional views of a catheter shaft, under an  
6       alternative embodiment.

7       Figs. 24A-B show side and cross-sectional views of a catheter shaft, under  
8       another alternative embodiment.

On page 75, replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following paragraph as amended.

1       ~~An intravascular catheter system for the treatment of occluded blood vessels that~~  
2       ~~includes tissue displacement or hinged expansion members that are movable from a~~  
3       ~~closed to an open position. An actuating assembly may be provided for moving the tissue~~  
4       ~~expansion members between an open and closed position to exert a substantially lateral~~  
5       ~~distal end force upon the region surrounding an occluded blood vessel. The tissue~~  
6       ~~expansion members may stretch apart, tear or otherwise disrupt a vascular occlusion~~  
7       ~~sufficiently to create a pathway that may support the passage or placement of a guidewire~~  
8       ~~or an interventional vascular device across the occlusion or obstruction. Methods of~~  
9       ~~crossing or displacing a vascular occlusion are further provided that include the~~  
10       ~~positioning of a vascular catheter having at least one hinged spreading member~~  
11       ~~positioned at the distal region of the catheter that is responsive to directed force along the~~  
12       ~~longitudinal axis of the catheter. A directed force is applied to the actuator in order to~~  
13       ~~deploy the spreading member and displace a vascular occlusion creating a path to permit~~  
14       ~~the passage of a guidewire or device therethrough. A micro-dissection catheter is~~  
15       provided for crossing vascular occlusions. The catheter includes a catheter shaft with an  
16       assembly at the distal end of the catheter shaft. The assembly includes at least one  
17       atraumatic jaw that comprises a free distal tip and a continuous interior surface which  
18       mates to a component of the assembly. The catheter further includes an actuation  
19       assembly, the movement of which spreads the atraumatic jaw and brings the free distal  
20       tip in contact with tissue of a blood vessel wall and applies a force to the tissue that  
21       separates material of the vascular occlusion of the blood vessel. The atraumatic jaw  
22       spreads by moving through an arc away from the longitudinal axis of the catheter shaft  
23       with respect to a fixed pivotal position of a proximal end of the atraumatic jaw.